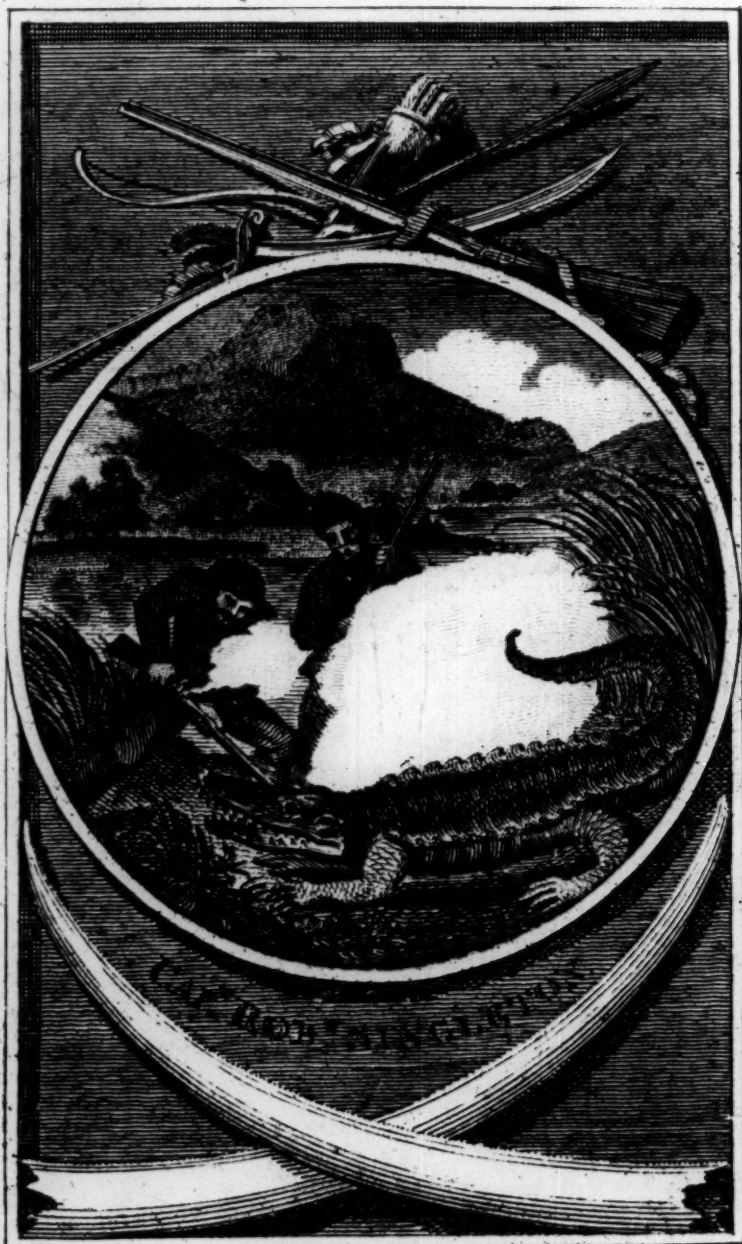


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THE  
VOYAGES, TRAVELS,  
AND  
SURPRISING ADVENTURES,  
OF  
*Captain Robert Singleton.*

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WRITTEN BY DANIEL DEFOE, *K*  
Author of ROBINSON CRUSOE, &c. &c.

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CONTAINING

An Account of his being set on Shore in the Island of Madagascar ;  
of his Passage from thence, and Travels through the Deserts of Africa ;  
his various Encounters with Savages and wild Beasts ; his acquiring  
great Riches in Gold Dust and Elephants' Teeth, and return to England.



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Cambridge

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THE  
VOYAGES AND TRAVELS  
OF  
CAPT. ROBERT SINGLETON.

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IF I may believe the woman whom I called mother, I was taken out one fine summer's evening towards Islington, by a nursery maid, for the benefit of the fresh air. I was then, it seems, about two years old. My attendant was accompanied by a girl of twelve or fourteen, who, while the other was entertained with cakes and ale, at a public-house, by one of her acquaintance, had orders to amuse me. The girl accordingly played about with me in her hand, sometimes in the garden, and sometimes at the door. At this juncture came by one of those people that make a practice of stealing children; who, taking me in her arms, began to kiss and play with me: she then artfully drew the girl some distance from the house, and also cunningly contrived to dispatch her on an errand, while she carried me away.

Soon after this, I was disposed of to a beggar woman, and after that to a Gipsy, with whom I continued until I was about six years old. This woman I called mother; and it was from her I learned the above account, and that she bought me for twelve shillings, of a woman who told her how she came by me, and that my name was Bob Singleton.

In process of time my Gipsy mother, for some of her evil tricks, was hanged; and the first thing that I can remember afterwards, was being sent to a parish school, where I did not continue long, being frequently shifted from parish to parish, according as my supposed mother's settlement was disputed. One of these parishes chanced to be near the sea-coast, where the master of a ship took a fancy to me, and at twelve years old carried me to sea with him on a voyage to Newfoundland.

I went three or four voyages with him, and grew a sturdy lad, when returning home from the banks of Newfoundland, in our last voyage, we were attacked and taken by an Algerine rover. My master was wounded in the head by a splinter during the engagement; notwithstanding which they used him very barbarously. I could not forbear expressing my disapprobation, for which I got most unmercifully bastinadoed on the soles of my feet; so that I could neither walk, or even stand, for several days. My good fortune, however, soon stood my friend; for as we were steering for the Streights, our ship being in tow, we were attacked in sight of the bay of Cadiz by two Portuguese men of war, retaken, and carried into Lisbon. My master, the only friend I had in the

world, soon died of his wounds, and all our men were at liberty to go where they pleased. I, that knew not whither to direct my steps, continued for several days in the ship, until at length one of the lieutenants asked what that young English dog did there, and ordered them to turn me ashore. As I partly understood what he meant, I was in a terrible fright, not knowing how I should procure a morsel of bread, when the Pilot of the ship seeing me look dull, asked me, in broken English, if I had no friend. "No," said I, "not in the world; except yon great dog; for he has been my good friend, and just given me my dinner;" which indeed was literally true; for the ship's dog, having stolen a piece of meat a little before, and brought it close to me, I had taken it from him, and eat it. "Well, well," says he, "you must have some dinner. Will you go along with me?" "Yes," says I, "with all my heart." So the old Pilot took me home with him, and used me tolerably well; though I fared hard enough. I lived with him two years, and then he was appointed pilot or master to a Portuguese galleon, bound to Goa, in the East Indies; and I was put on board to look after his cabin, and take care of his stores.

We made our way for the East Indies by the coast of Brazil, where, at All Saints Bay, we delivered a hundred ton of goods; and took in a considerable quantity of gold, some chests of sugar, and seventy or eighty great rolls of tobacco.

We had a tolerable voyage from hence to the Cape of Good Hope; and I being reputed a mighty diligent servant, the Captain took a particular liking to me, and made me a kind of supernumerary under the ship's steward for such provision as came from the stores for his own table. By this means I had an opportunity of furnishing myself with provisions, and of living as well as any one in the ship. Nothing material occurring, we arrived at Goa, in the East Indies, in about seven months from the time we left Lisbon, and remained there about eight months more, when our ship having compleated her lading, we set sail for Portugal.

I can say nothing of our voyage, as I kept no journal; only having been once near the Cape of Good Hope, we were driven back again by a violent storm from the W. S. W. which held us six days and night; after that running before the wind for several days more, we at length came to an anchor on the coast of Madagascar. The storm was so violent, that the ship received a great deal of damage; and it required some time to repair her; and standing in nearer to land, my master brought the ship into a good road in twenty-six fathoms water, near half a mile from the shore. While the ship rode here, there happened a most dangerous mutiny amongst the men, on account of some deficiency in their allowance. Being only a boy, and ignorant of the consequences, I consoled with them so openly, that when an order was given to seize and put sixteen of them in irons, I was included in the number. The captain being resolved to insure his own safety by at least striking terror amongst the crew, brought

us to a formal trial, and we were all condemned to die. However, he contented himself with the execution of the purser, and one of the gunners. Some, on their promise of better behaviour, and humble submission, were pardoned; and five, of which I was one, were ordered to be set on shore on the island.

I was now only seventeen or eighteen years of age at most; and hearing what was to be my fate, sent and begged to speak to my master, and desired I might have my cloaths on shore with me, and also a gun and a sword, with a little powder and shot; all which he promised his interest to procure for me, and was as good as his word; for the next day he obtained of the captain an acquiescence to my request.

Two days after we were carried on shore; and the rest of my companions hearing I was to have a gun, solicited the same indulgence. At our first arrival on the island, we were exceedingly terrified at the natives; but when we came to converse with them by signs, and found them not so dreadful as they were represented, we became more composed. The ship continued about a fortnight in the road, during which period the boat coming often on shore, brought us various refreshments. All this time we lived in a hut, which we made of the boughs of trees, and sometimes retired into a wood at a little distance, to make the natives think we were gone on board the ship; for after a little time we found them barbarous in their nature, and therefore concluded we should soon perish when they knew the ship was gone. This so wrought on one of my companions, that, in a fit of desperation, he swam off to the ship one night, though she then lay a league from shore, and made such pitiful moan, that the captain was at length prevailed on to take him in. Though he had quitted our company, he never ceased importuning the captain and officers in behalf of us that were left behind; but the captain proving inexorable, and preparations being made for sailing, all the seamen in a body came up to the mate on the quarter-deck, and having appointed the boatswain to speak for them, he fell on his knees, and begged in the humblest manner, that the captain would receive the four men on board again. It was a great while before the captain made any reply; but as they still continued their importunity, he ordered the boatswain to be seized, and threatened to ring him to the capstern.

On this severity, one seaman, bolder than the rest, besought him that he would then give leave for some more of them to go on shore, and die with their companions. The captain, though provoked at this, yet very prudently concealed his resentment, and told them, that what he had been compelled to do, was not only for his own and the ship's safety, but for theirs also; that he did not know he had deserved so ill at their hands that they should leave the ship; yet, nevertheless, before he would consent to take a gang of traitors on board, he would not hinder their going, even if he were forsaken, and left by himself. This discourse was delivered with so much temper, and appeared so reasonable,



that, for the present, the major part returned to their duty. However, as it had excited cabals among them for some hours, during which time the wind slackened, the captain ordered them not to weigh 'till next morning.

The next morning, an hour before day, twenty-three of the men, amongst whom were the gunner's mate, the surgeon's assistant, and two carpenters, with every man a firelock and cutlass, with some pistols, three half pikes, good store of powder and ball, half an hundred of bread, all their chests and cloaths, tools, instruments, hooks, &c. embarked themselves so silently, that the captain got no notice of it until they had put off, and had got a considerable distance from the ship. As soon as the captain heard of it, he called for the gunner's mate, the chief gunner being sick in his cabin, and ordered him to fire at them; but, to his great mortification, the gunner's mate was one of the number; and, indeed, it was by his means they got so many arms, and so much ammunition. The captain, however, soon became a little appeased; and his boy delivered him a letter, which they had left, certifying, that they had taken away nothing but their own, except the arms and ammunition, which, as there were considerable arrears of wages due to them, they hoped he would allow them to keep; that the long-boat they would restore to whomsoever he would send to fetch it; and humbly hoped that, for the defence of their lives, he would send them a barrel of powder, some shot, and permit them to keep the mast and sail of the boat.

The captain having called his men together, let them know the purport of the letter; then said that, though the deserters had not deserved so well at his hands, he was nevertheless inclined to send them some ammunition; that he would therefore send them two barrels of powder, and shot and lead in proportion: he also ordered a cask of arrack, and a great bag of bread, for present subsistence. The men applauded the captain's generosity; and every one of them sent us something or other; the pinnace coming on shore, and bringing all these things, which we were very glad of; and we, on our part, returned the long-boat, according to promise.

Being now a good troop of twenty-seven men, well armed and provided, (for the surgeon's mate had brought all his instruments and medicines, and the carpenters all their tools,) we thought ourselves sufficiently strong while we were united; and therefore, the first thing we did, was to enter into an agreement that we would not separate on any account; that whatever food was killed, should be equally and publicly distributed; that we would appoint a leader, a distinction which every one should share in turn; that while he was in office, all should obey him; but, nevertheless, under the restrictive vote of a majority of voices.

The next morning, after we had sent back the long-boat, the ship stood away to the south-east, and in four hours was out of sight. We found the place full of cattle and provisions; and being under a necessity to procure some, eleven men, well armed,



were dispatched on this errand. They brought word that they had seen some of the natives, who appeared civil enough, though rather shy and fearful, as being thoroughly aware of the use and superiority of our fire-arms.

Having made signs for food, the natives went and fetched several herbs and roots; though 'twas evident they did not mean to give them away, making signs to know what our men would give in return. The men were somewhat perplexed at this, having nothing to barter; however, one of them pulled out a knife, and shewed them, which they were so fond of, that they were ready to quarrel for it. Our man being willing to make a good market, kept them in suspense a while, until one offered him a creature of the goat kind, which he took. A sailor then offered them another knife; but they had nothing good enough for that; but, on their making signs they would fetch something, our men waited three hours for their return, when they brought him a small sized cow, very fat, and perfectly good meat. This was a good exchange on our part; but the misfortune was, our knives were as necessary to us as to them. We, however, had no goods to barter; and for money, all our stock, were they inclined to take it, would not have subsisted us long. Nevertheless we called a council, to see what money we had; and when it came to my turn, I pulled out a moidore and two dollars: but our money, in its present state, was of little service; for the natives neither knew its nominal value or use.

Our next consultation was relative to our escape from this place; and this ended in an agreement to build a sea boat, which we set about immediately. As we went on, great difficulties occurred; such as the want of large saws to cut plank, nails, bolts and spikes, hemp, pitch, tow, and the like. At length, one of the company proposed that, as they found it so difficult, nay impossible, to compleat a bark, sloop or shallop, they should rather make a large perriague, or canoe, which being agreed to, our conference broke up; and soon after a man, who stood at the door of our hut, called out a sail, and running out, we saw a ship plainly at a very great distance, and, as we thought, too far to make any signal to her. However, we made a fire on a hill; but she stood away with the wind at E. N. E. making for the Cape of Good Hope. We went, therefore, immediately to work on our canoe; for having singled out a very large tree, in a few days we felled and reduced it to proper form, and were much encouraged, when we launched it, and found it swam upright and steady. She was so large as to carry us easily, baggage and all; and to gratify our fancy, we went one day all out to sea in her; but having reached about half a league, and it happening to be a pretty high swell, though but little wind, she rolled so heavily, that we were glad to get her under the land again.

We began now to be at a great loss for provisions; for though the natives brought down cattle, fowls, herbs, and roots, in abundance, we had nothing to exchange on our part. However,

in the midst of our troubles, one of our men, who had been an artificer in iron, suddenly started up, and asked our carpenter if, among all his tools, he could not help him to a file. "Yes," replies the carpenter; "but it's a small one." "The smaller the better," says the other; and immediately went to work, and beat out three or four pieces of eight with a hammer on a stone, until they were very broad and thin; he then cut them out into the shape of birds or beasts; and also made little chains for bracelets and necklaces: in short, he turned then into so many devices, as are hardly to be expressed.

When he had exercised his ingenuity, we had another meeting with the natives, and were surprised, though pleased, to see their folly. For a little bit of silver, cut in the shape of a bird, they gave us two cows; and for a bracelet of chain-work, as much provision as would have been worth, in England, twenty pounds.

In this situation we lived upwards of a year; but all of us became tired of it, and resolved to attempt an escape. We had furnished ourselves with three very good canoes; and as the monsoons, or trade winds, blow in this part of the world six months one way, and six months another, we concluded we might bear the sea well enough; but when we came to look nearer to it, the want of fresh water for so long a run, put a stop to every thing. In regard to food, we had a sailor among us, who told us, he would find a way to preserve our beef without cask or pickle; and this he did effectually, by curing it in the sun by the aid of saltpetre, of which there was great plenty in the island: but our chief difficulty still remained; for we had no vessel to put any water in, much less to keep any quantity for sea store. Necessity is, however, the mother of invention; so, after many schemes had been thought of, and as often rejected, our carpenter at length contrived a kind of well, in the middle of one of our canoes, which he separated from the other parts, making it water-tight, and covered at top, so that we might step on it, and so large as to contain a hog'shead of water.

It wanted now but little consultation to proceed on our voyage, our design being to coast on the west side of the island until we came to a point of land stretching a great way to the north-west, from whence taking our departure, the distance would not be so great to the main land of Africa. Such a voyage, and with such a crew, was I believe never undertaken; for 'twas certain we were on the worst side of the island to look for shipping. However, we put to sea. Having made a mast and sail for our two largest perriagues, the other we paddled along; and when a gale sprung up, we took her in tow.

We sailed forward for some days, meeting with nothing to interrupt us, and saw several canoes with the natives catching fish; but they were all so shy, that, when we attempted to come near to speak with them, they instantly made for land. At length we remembered that, on a former occasion on shore, they had let up a long pole: it therefore occurred to us, that it might have the same

signification to them as a flag of truce to us : accordingly the next time we saw their boats, we put up a long pole in the canoe that had no sail, and rowed towards them. As soon as they saw our pole, they staid for us, and gave us some large fish; and our artist gave them two little bits of silver, cut diamond fashion, in return: these delighted them so much, that they made us stay until they had cast their nets again, and gave us as many fish as we cared for. Continuing our voyage northerly, we kept the coast for twelve days; and having the wind East and E. S. E. we made way. We saw no towns on the shore; but often saw huts by the water side, and abundance of people standing by them. As we advanced the heat increased; nay, began to be intolerable, especially as we had not any awning or covering. We were now in the month of October, in a southern latitude, and approached every day nearer the sun. This being the case, we resolved to go on shore until the heat of the weather abated. We had by this time measured half the length of the island, and were come to that part where the shore, tending to the north-west, bid fair to make our passage to the main sea much shorter; notwithstanding, we concluded our run would at least be one hundred and twenty leagues. Another reason for our wishing to go into harbour was, that our provisions were nearly expended. We accordingly put in for shore next morning; but not liking the place, resolved to go on a few days longer.

Keeping a N. W. course by N. with a fresh gale at S. E. for six days more, we saw, at a great distance, a large promontory pushing out a long way into the sea, which being resolved to double, and the gale continuing, we kept on our way, though it was four days before we reached it; and then, to our great vexation, found the shore fall away on the other side as much as it had advanced on this. While we were musing on this discovery, we were surprised with bad weather, violent rain, accompanied with thunder and lightning unusually terrible, which made us run for shore, and get under the lee of the cape, where we moored our little frigates in a small creek, encompassed on both sides with trees; we then made all possible haste on shore, being exceedingly wet and fatigued.

We set to work immediately, to dry our cloaths, and build some huts of boughs of trees. In a small shed, at some distance, we kept our powder: a larger one we appropriated for dressing our food; and the largest we reserved as a council-chamber. The settlement completed, our artist was immediately employed in forming various little ornaments to traffic with the natives for provisions; which procured us plenty for present consumption, and also about fifty head of cattle, which we salted and dried for store.

We continued here about four months, and then began to think of our next adventure, which was to go over the sea of Zanguebar, and to land, if possible, on the continent of Africa. In this voyage we were favoured by a land breeze for fifteen or twenty leagues out to sea, and, as I may say, just far enough to lose our-



selves; and then the wind suddenly changed; so that, after having sailed eleven days, expended every drop of water, and most of our provisions, we found ourselves in the utmost distress. At this juncture, to our great joy, we again spied land, though we were two days before we reached it. This, for the present, gave us a surfeit of our voyage: we went again on shore, and pitched our camp: but the natives here were more civilized than on the other part of the island; for seeing our men build their huts in a bungling manner, they assisted them, and run up four or five presently.

They also gave us five goats and two fat steers; and when we offered them any thing in return, their chief would not let them take it. One of our men, however, offered him a dram, which he drank, and held out his hand for another, which we gave him, after which he seldom failed coming three or four times a week, but always brought some provision with him; and one time sent us seven head of cattle, which we cured as before.

We were now prompted to enquire whether they had any larger vessels than those we had seen during our course; but they gave us to understand they had not; but that on the other side of the island they had some with decks and sails. This made us resolve to coast the whole island: so we prepared, and put to sea for the third time.

We continued our voyage south for many weeks, going frequently on shore for provision and water; at length coming round a point of land which lay a league into the sea, we were surprised with the sight of a wreck of an European ship; at low water a great part lay dry: she appeared to be Dutch built, and could not have been in that condition long, as most of her stern, together with the mizen-mast, remained; though all the fore part had been beaten to pieces. It was no unpleasing sight to us, when we came on shore, to see all the marks and tokens of a carpenter's yard, which plainly gave us to understand, that the crew had been saved, and had built themselves a bark or sloop, and gone off to sea again.

This was certainly a good hint to us to use the same method. Our first care was, therefore, to see what materials the Dutchmen had left behind that might be serviceable; and one thing we found particularly useful, which was a pitch kettle, and a little pitch in it. We now set all hands to work in breaking up the wreck, out of which we got a great deal of iron-work, as bolts, spikes, nails, &c. which encouraged us to commence our labour; and, indeed, we worked very hard for four months, at the end of which time we launched our frigate, which had many defects; yet, all things considered, it was as well as we could expect it.

Our vessel being thus finished, our next care was to victual and put as much fresh water on board as we knew how to stow. We then put to sea again with a fair wind, and, with more courage than discretion, stood directly over for the main land of Africa.

The voyage was much longer than we expected. Our vessel also having no sail proportioned to her size, made but little way: however, the wind continued fair; and at the end of eight or nine days, one of our men, to our great joy, called out land. We were much



disappointed, on coming on shore, to find it was only an island, without any inhabitants, or any cattle, except goats, of which we killed three only. Having furnished ourselves with fresh water, we again embarked, and were fifteen days more before we reached the main land: our provisions were all expended, and for the last two days we had been at an allowance of a pint of water a man.

As soon as we had viewed the country, procured water, and a small quantity of fresh provisions, we coasted until we reached a large bay, and then ran boldly up a little creek, where we perceived some huts, and a number of people, having first set up a long pole, with a bit of white cloth, as a signal of peace, which we found they understood, as they immediately came flocking about us. We then made signs for water and provisions; the former of which they brought us, and likewise some roots, herbs and fruit: however, not finding them so free as the natives of Madagascar, we set our artist again to work, and, in exchange for his toys, they brought us goats, hogs, and cattle in plenty.

Here we formed one of the most desperate resolutions that ever entered the heart of man; this was to travel over land through the interior of the country, from the coast of Mosambique on the Eastern Ocean, to the coast of Guinea on the Atlantic, a tract of land of at least one thousand eight hundred miles. We had the equinoctial line to pass under; consequently the very centre of the torrid zone, almost impassable deserts to traverse, innumerable wild beasts to encounter; such as lions, tigers, leopards, and elephants; nations of savages to cope with; exclusive of hunger and thirst; in a word, terrors enough to appal the stoutest heart, or check the most undaunted courage.

Our traffic with the natives had hitherto been upon the faith of their first kindness, but it did not finish in the same manner; for one day our artist differing with his chapman, the fellow not only persisted in keeping the things, but laughed in his face, and drove off the cattle. Our man calling out to us on occasion of this violence, the negroe threw a lance, and wounded him in the arm; which so enraged the man, that he caught up his fusée, and shot him through the heart. The negroes were so terribly scared at this sight, that at first they stood perfectly motionless; but being a little recovered, they began screaming fearfully, which was presently repeated in every direction, and which seemed to be the signal for a general rendezvous.

We had now no time for consultation; our only alternative was to fly immediately to our vessel, or try what effect a volley or two of shot would produce. Having concluded on the latter, we immediately drew up in a line, and gave them a salute, which knocked down sixteen, and wounded a great many more; but finding the negroes did not run, as was expected, our men testified the utmost alarm. In this dilemma I called to them to load again, and all but seven to give them another volley, and that I would engage to make the negroes run. Having fired the second time, "Now," said I, "let us give them a cheer."—I then shouted

three times, and then added, "follow me, and you shall see we will make work with them;" and indeed so it proved; for as soon as they saw us coming, away they run.

When we came up to the field of battle, we saw many more lying on the ground than we could suppose were killed; but at length we found that the major part were only stupified: those, when a little recovered, made every gesture of profound submission, which put it into my head that we might now, by the law of arms, take as many prisoners as we could, and make them travel with us, and carry our baggage. Our men, as soon as I proposed it, were of the same opinion; and we secured about sixty lusty young fellows, bound them with mat ropes, and made them understand they must go with us, which they seemed willing to do.

From my taking some authority upon me in this engagement, my companions called me seignior captain; but I told them I would not be called seignior. "Well then," said the gunner, "you shall be called Captain Bob:"—and so they gave me that title ever after.

There was among the prisoners one tall, well-shaped, handsome fellow, to whom the rest appeared to pay great respect: he was wounded in the hip and arm, the latter being broke at the wrist. From the deference the rest payed him, it occurred to me, that he might be made particularly useful; so I intimated to him, by signs, that we would make him well again.

This created still more awe in the minds of these poor creatures than even our fire-arms had done; for immediately the young prince, (for so we called him afterwards,) and five or six more, came kneeling down, and making various signs of entreaty, which we were a long time before we could understand, but which we at length found was to desire we would also heal the prince's father, who had been killed at the first volley. We presently took the hint, and told them that those men had first provoked us; we therefore were resolved never to make them alive again; but that if he (the prince) would go with us, and do as we would have him, we would not let him die, but make him well. Upon this he bade one of the blacks reach an arrow off the ground; this he took in his hand, and pointing up to the sun, broke it, and set the point to his breast, and then gave it to me: this was, as I afterwards understood, wishing that the sun would pierce him in the breast, if he ever failed in his duty to us. The surgeon soon cured the wound in his hip; but as to the arm, one of the bones being broken, it was obliged to be splintered up, and the arm fixed in a sling. It was easy for him to perceive that we intended to carry provisions with us; but he made signs to tell us, that we need not for forty days, expressing the number by laying forty little stones one by another.

He then made signs to us, that he would procure some young buffaloes to carry our things: after which we shewed him our bark, at which he seemed amazed, having never seen any thing

like it before. We then gave him to understand, that we wanted provision for present subsistence; on which he again made signs, that if we would let one of the prisoners go to his town, he should bring provision, and also some beasts to carry our food. Seeing me loth to trust the man, he put a rope about his own neck, and offered me one end, signifying that I should strangle him if the man did not return: so I consented; and having unbound the man, the prince gave him instructions, and sent him away, pointing to the sun, which it seems was to tell him the time he must return. Accordingly the next morning he came back, bringing with him several cows, about sixteen goats, and four young bulls, trained to carry burthens. Being thus supplied with provision, our next consideration was how to make some large bags or knapsacks for the negroes to carry our baggage in; and, after some consideration, having killed our goats, we spread and dried their skins in the sun, made our bags, and divided our baggage. When the prince found what they were for, he sent the man again to fetch more, who came accompanied by two others loaded with skins, much better cured than ours: these men also brought the prince two lances, which, however, he would not take until we gave him leave.

We now prepared for a march, when the prince, pointing to the four quarters of the world, made signs to know which way we intended to go; and when we pointed to the west, he gave us to understand, there was a great river a little further to the north, which was able to carry our bark many leagues into the country due west. I presently enquired for the mouth of this river, which I understood from him was at the distance of about a day's march.

Consulting among ourselves, we resolved to take the prince, and as many as we could stow, in our bark, and go about by the bay into the river; and that eight of us, with our arms, should march by land, and meet them by the river side; for the prince had shewn us the course of it from a rising ground, being in one part only about six miles from us.

It was my lot to march by land, and to command the whole caravan, having eight of our men with me, and thirty-seven prisoners, without any baggage, for that was yet on board. We drove the young bulls before us; they were perfectly tame, and willing to work, or carry any thing; four of the negroes would ride on them at a time; they would eat out of our hands, and were, in short, as tractable as a dog. We drove with us likewise six or seven cows, and found it an easy march by the river side, arriving there in a few hours; but it was no less than five days before our companions reached us by water, by reason of a great turn in the river, near fifty miles about. The wind also had failed them in the bay. We passed this time in making bottles of the dried skins to carry fresh water in, which the negroes did very dexterously; so that now every man had a pouch like a bladder to suspend over his shoulder for that very necessary purpose. That we might rest assured of our prisoners fidelity, the



prince, before we set out on our march, ordered them to be fastened two together by the wrist, having first convinced them no ill was intended them.

All the country on the banks of the river was high land, the verdure good, and abundance of cattle feeding wherever we went. There was no wood, indeed; though further up the country, we saw oak, cedar and pine trees, some of which were very large. The river was a fair open channel, as broad as the Thames at Gravesend, with a strong tide, that held about sixty miles, and the channel deep: in short, we went merrily up the river with the flood, the wind blowing fresh at E. and E. N. E. We stemmed the ebb easily while the river continued broad and deep; but when we came past the swelling of the tide, and had the natural current of the river to go against, we found it too strong for us, and began to think of quitting our bark: however, finding we could still get on by the help of two lines, and our sail, we proceeded by our computation near two hundred miles up this river, when it narrowed apace, and was not broader than the Thames at Windsor. In another day we came to a waterfall, where the whole river fell at once down a precipice above sixty feet; the noise this occasioned we distinctly heard for above ten miles before we reached it.

Here we were at a full stop, and our prisoners went on shore: they had worked very hard and cheerfully in towing the bark, which now could go no further; though, had we been possessed of light boats or canoes, on the other side the cataract, we might have navigated this river two hundred miles further. All this way the country looked green, pleasant, and full of cattle. We had seen some people, but not many; but these were of different nations, and even speech; nor had we seen any wild beasts, until two days before we reached the cataract, when we saw three beautiful leopards on the north bank of the river. Our gunner espied them first, and ran for his gun, into which he put a ball extraordinary. "Now, Captain Bob," said he, "explain to your prince that he shall see this thing in my hand speak in fire to one of those beasts, and kill it."

What the prince said to his countrymen I know not, but they stood wildly staring and trembling, as if they were themselves going to be killed. The gunner then fired, and shot one of the creatures in the head. As soon as the leopard was struck, she reared up on her hind legs, fell backwards, growled and died. The others fled, and were out of sight in an instant. Nothing could equal the alarm of the negroes at this sight; four or five of them actually fell down with affright: nay, even the prince, notwithstanding he was prepared, when the piece went off, gave a start, as if he would have leaped into the river. When I saw the creature killed, I had a great mind for its skin; and having made signs to that purpose, the prince gave orders to four of his countrymen, whose hands being unloosed, they immediately swam over, and, with admirable dexterity, in less than an hour, stood



the animal, and brought me the skin, which, from the ears to the tail, measured seven feet, and five round the back; it was most beautifully spotted. This skin I brought to London several years after.

As we could not now get our bark any farther, by reason of the cataract, we hauled her into a little cove, and left her: after which we spent two days in dividing our baggage, and proportioning the burthens to the strength and convenience of both our buffaloes and negroes. We kept still on the bank of the river, and for that reason had very little communication with the people of the country; for having plenty of provision in our bark, we had no immediate occasion for a supply; but, when this failed, we were of course necessitated to look out for food. The first place we stopped at for that purpose, was a little negro town, of about four hundred people; who, on our appearance, fled to arms; but being given to understand, that we should do them no injury, they laid down their weapons. We, however, kept at a distance from them; only giving them to understand, that we wanted provisions: they brought us a sufficiency of cattle, also some roots and fruit, which they gladly exchanged with our artist for some of his knick-knacks.

Having divided the provisions, for easy carriage, we again set forward, and, on the third day after, halted, and ran up some huts, our carpenter having found some trees fit for canoes. Here we set part of our prisoners at liberty: that is, we no longer tied them; the prince having vouched for their fidelity. Some of these were sent to seek provisions; instead of which, they returned with a number of bows and arrows, and five lances, which, by their account, they found in some huts, from whence the women had fled at their approach. At the instance of the prince, we gave these weapons to their new masters, and again sent them to seek for food. In about three hours one of them returned in haste for assistance, they having met with a great herd of deer, and shot three of them.

In about eight days we finished our canoes, and in them embarked our baggage, and also a part of our little army; and now we began to see more wild beasts than in the former part of our march, such as elephants, and two or three lions; none of which we had seen before. The eighth day of our second navigation, we came to a little negroe town, where there grew a kind of grain like rice, of which we procured some, and made into cakes, which we contrived to bake.

Our negroes towing our canoes, we travelled at a considerable rate, and, by our account, could not go less than twenty-five miles a day, the river continuing much the same breadth, and very deep, until the tenth day, when we came to another cataract, or rather a chain of them, which made us at first conclude that our voyage was totally at end. However, after about a march of half a mile, we found the channel open, and likely to continue so a good way further, so we set all hands to unload our canoes, to see if we could carry them. Upon examination, we found them very heavy: but

our carpenters spending one day upon them, hewed away so much wood from the outside, as reduced them very much; and yet they were as fit to swim as before; so that ten men, with poles, could carry them very well; and ordering twenty to each canoe, that one ten might relieve the other, we speedily launched them into the water on the other side of the cataraet; then fetched our baggage, and loaded again; all in the course of the afternoon. The next morning we moved forward again, and towed for four days more, when our gunner observed that we did not exactly keep to the right course, the river winding away a little to the north; however, not being willing to lose the benefit of water carriage, at least until we were forced to it, we went on about threescore miles further, when we found it so narrow and shallow as to be little more than a brook.

We now set forward by land, our only concern being to find water enough for drinking; and for that purpose we climbed every hill in our way, to see the country, and to keep near some stream of water, if possible. In a few days we came into a plain country, in which we perceived a great number of inhabitants; but we found them a fierce, barbarous people: however, we ordered our negroes to try every method to gain their friendship. Accordingly, the two men who had taken the bows and arrows, and two others with the lances, went foremost, with five more carrying long poles; and after them followed ten of our men well armed; and the rest of us stood ready to support them, if there should be occasion. When they came pretty near their houses, our negroes halloed in their screaming manner; and presently some of the men came out, and soon after the whole town, men, women and children. Our men made all the signs of friendship they could think of; and then put their hands to their mouths, signifying that they wanted provisions. The others pretended to be friendly, and made signs they would bring some before sun-set, so that our men came back very well satisfied.

An hour before sun-set, our men went again, according to appointment, when the others brought deers' flesh, roots, and the corn before mentioned; and our negroes being furnished with our cutler's toys, gave some in exchange, with which they seemed pleased, and promised to bring more provision the next day. Accordingly, next day they came again, but in greater numbers; and when our men had advanced almost as far as the day before, the rogues snatched up their bows and arrows, and came rushing upon them; at which our men called to the negroes to return, which they did with speed; and the others immediately let fly near an hundred arrows after them. Our ten men then fired among the thickest of them; but as this did not make them fly, we advanced, and fired in platoons; but their numbers appearing to increase, I called to our men to halt, and give them a general discharge; then to shout, rush forward, and knock them down with their musquets. They did not, however, wait for us; for we had no sooner fired a volley, then they scampered off, so that in a few minutes not an

individual was to be seen, except the killed and wounded; the former of which amounted to thirty-seven, and the latter to sixty-four. There was no great spoil to be got, except the bows and arrows of the vanquished; which, after the fight, we made our negroes collect, and sent them out in parties, to get some provisions; and amongst other things they brought four young buffaloes used to carry burthens. These creatures not only eased our negroes, but also gave us an opportunity to carry more provision; for we loaded them at this place.

Here we also took a young leopard, about two spans high, exceeding tame, and who purred like a cat. Our black prince found him in one of the huts, and giving him a few pieces of meat, the creature followed him like a dog.

From hence we travelled for fifteen days, and then arrived at a ridge of mountains, frightful to behold, being the first of the kind we had met with. We also saw several nations before we reached those hills, and found them pretty friendly and tractable, though we could learn but little from them, except that beyond those mountains there was a vast desert, abounding in lions and leopards. They also signified to us, that we must not fail to furnish ourselves with water. Here, by a moderate computation, we had travelled seven hundred miles; and here our black prince's arm was freed from the sling, being perfectly cured.

Having, with infinite labour, climbed the hills, the view of the country beneath was enough to appal the stoutest heart: as far as the eye could reach, nothing could be seen but a burning sand, which the wind blew about in clouds sufficient to overwhelm man or beast. We were all much affected at this sight; but could not bear the thoughts of going back, being now a third part of our way to Angola. On the other hand, our gunner convinced us, that if we changed our route, and travelled south until we came to the Cape of Good Hope, it was at least from where we now were fifteen hundred miles: and that if we travelled north, the western shore extended into the sea above a thousand miles; so that we should have as much land to traverse afterwards, which might possibly be as wild as this; therefore he proposed that we should attempt this desert; at least see how far our provisions would carry us, and in particular our water; and that we should venture no further than until half our water was expended; that half might remain to serve us back again, in case we found no recruit. This advice we all approved; and calculated that we could carry provision for forty-two days, and water for twenty. With this resolution we descended the mountains; and on the second day reached the plain, where we found a rivulet of good water, abundance of deer, and a creature like a hare, but not so nimble.

The infinite number of deer, and other creatures, was occasioned, we were convinced, by the neighbourhood of the desert, from whence they retired thither for food and refreshment. We here furnished ourselves with flesh and roots, and with water, allowing a quart a



day for our negroes, three pints for ourselves, and three quarts a day for our buffaloes, for twenty days. Thus laden, we set forward; but, on our first entrance into this dismal waste, we were much discouraged, for we found the sand so deep, and burning to our feet, that, after we had waded through it seven or eight miles, we were heartily tired and faint; even our negroes laying down, and panting with fatigue. Here we also found the difference of lodging greatly injurious to us. Before we had always huts to sleep under, that sheltered us from the night air, which is particularly unwholesome in hot countries, but now there was not so much as a bush or a shrub to shelter us; and, to add to our distress, towards night we began to hear the howling of wolves, roaring of lions, and a strange variety of other frightful noises.

We now began to reflect on our indiscretion, in not bringing poles, with which we might at least have staked ourselves in: as it was, we made a miserable temporary hut, by fixing the bows and lances in the sand, and laying our coats upon them. The few skins we had made us a tolerable covering; and thus we lay down to sleep, and slept very soundly the first night, getting two of our men to watch with their muskets, and relieving them every hour at first, and every two hours afterwards. It was well we did so; for we found the wilderness swarmed with wild beasts of different kinds, some of which came up to the very enclosure of our tent; but our centinels were ordered not to alarm us by firing, but only to flash some powder in the pan, which they found effectual. The next morning our black prince told us, (for he now began to understand our language, and we very well understood his signs,) that he would give us some good council, which was to march back again to the river side where we lay the night before, and stay there until we had made good store of mats, as there was large quantities of the stuff growing there of which the natives make them. We all approved this advice, and immediately resolved to go back. Some of the nimblest of us arrived there with more ease than we travelled from it the day before; but not being in haste, the rest made a halt, encamped another night, and came to us the next day.

Our men, however, who made the two days journey, met with an adventure which made them very careful how they parted company again. The second day, in the morning, before they had gone half a mile, looking behind them, they saw a vast cloud of dust rise in the air; and they perceived that it came after them much faster than they went from it. This being the case, they very prudently turned out of the way on one side, to let whatever it should be pass by them. When they were about a quarter of a mile they halted; and one of the negroes, a nimble fellow, went back a little, and in a few minutes came running as fast as the heavy sand would allow, and gave them to understand, that it was a great herd of monstrous elephants. There were between twenty and thirty in number, and prodigious large ones; and though they plainly saw our men, yet they did not turn out of their



way. We, that were before, saw the cloud of dust, but did not know by what it was occasioned, until our companions came to us.

We now began our work, the prince instructing our men; for he was an excellent mat-maker. His own men understood it; so that we soon had near an hundred mats; and as all the negroes carried one, they were very little trouble to us; nor did we carry an ounce of provision the less. As for our poles and stakes, which we cut here, our negroes, in their march, found them, instead of an incumbrance, highly useful, making fast their burthen of provisions to them, and carrying a pole thus loaded between two of them. Here we likewise made an abundance of small mat ropes; and having compleated our stores, once more set forward on our journey, which this work had interrupted just eight days. To our great comfort, the night before we set off, there fell a violent shower of rain, the good effects of which we found in the sand; though one day dried the surface as much as before; yet it was harder at the bottom, and cooler to our feet, by which means we marched fourteen miles with more ease than seven before.

When we came to encamp, we had now, in less than hour, a large tent raised, with an inner and outer apartment. In one we lay ourselves; and in the other our negroes; besides a little place without for our buffaloes. In the morning our tent was taken down, and the stakes pulled up, in as little time as it was fixed. In this manner we marched for eight days, without change of prospect. The ninth day of our journey through this wilderness, we came to the view of a great lake of water; and the next day reached it on the south coast, for to the north we could see no end. We travelled three days by the side of this lake, which lightened our burthen, there being no occasion to carry water. Though there was so much water, we found very little alteration in the desert; neither trees, grass, or herbage, except a kind of thistle, of which the desert began to be pretty full.

Though we were refreshed by the neighbourhood of the water, it had also its inconveniences, namely, in the prodigious number of creatures that frequented it to drink. For a day's journey before we reached the lake, the three days we were passing it, and for six or seven days after, the ground was scattered with elephants' teeth in an almost incredible manner; some so heavy that the strongest man among us could not lift them. I here proposed to our gunner, that, seeing we had travelled fourteen days without intermission, having also plenty of water and food, that we should halt, and rest our people. To this he and the rest willingly assented: and having got our artist, with no small trouble, to make some hooks, we caught abundance of fish of different kinds, not only for present use, but dried several large ones in the sun to lengthen out our provisions.

We walked out morning and evening while we staid here, and in the middle of the day refreshed ourselves under our tent. One morning, as our black prince was walking by himself, he was set upon by an aligator, which came out of the lake: and though he

was light of foot, it was as much as he could do to get away: though three of our men fired at her, she did not mind them; until at length the gunner, with wonderful presence of mind, went up, and thrust the muzzle of his piece into her mouth, and fired, then let it fall, and ran for it. The creature raged a while, and spent its fury on the gun, making marks on the iron with its teeth; but, after some time, was exhausted and died.

One evening, after most of us had lain down to rest, we were much alarmed by our watch, who came running to us, being greatly frightened by the sudden roaring of lions just by them; but whom they had not seen, the night being dark. There was, it seems, an old lion, a lioness, and three young ones. One of the young ones had leaped up on a negroe, who was one of the centinels, before he saw him, on which he cried out, and ran into the tent. Our other man, who had a gun, had not the presence of mind to shoot him, but struck him with the but end of his musket, which made him whine a little, and then growl fearfully. The man then retired: and we being alarmed, three of our people snatched up their guns, and ran to the tent door, where they saw the old lion by the glare of his eyes in the dark, and immediately fired; but we suppose missed him; for they all went off, raising such an hideous roar, as brought down a prodigious number of lions, and other savage creatures, as if all the beasts of the desert had assembled to devour us. We asked our black prince what we should do with them. "Me go," said he, "fright all away."—So snatching up two or three of the worst mats, he hung one on the end of a pole, and set it on fire. This blazed a good while, and the creatures immediately left us, still roaring fearfully at a distance. "Well," said our gunner, "if this will do, we need not burn our beds." He then made some artificial fire-works, and gave to our centinels, to be ready; and particularly he placed a great piece of wild-fire upon the pole, which burnt so long, that all the wild beasts departed for that night.

We rested ourselves here five days. However, we began to dislike our nightly visitors so much, that, to get rid of them, we set forward again two days sooner than we intended. We found that, though the desert did not end, nor was there any appearance of it, yet that the earth was full of green herbs of different kinds, so that our cattle had no want; besides, there were several little rivers, which ran into the lake; and as long as the country was low, we found water sufficient, which eased us very much in our carriage. We went on sixteen days more, without any appearance of a better soil; after which we perceived the country rising gradually for three days, when, on a sudden, we found, that, though we had mounted insensibly, we were now on the top of a very high ridge of hills. When we came to look down on the other side of the hills, we saw, to our great joy, that the desert was at an end; the country being clothed with green; also abundance of trees, and a fine river.

By our gunner's account, who kept the reckoning, we had marched about four hundred miles over this dismal place, having been four and thirty days in it; and were come about eleven hundred miles of our journey.

It being too late to descend the hills that night, the next morning we saw every thing more plain; and soon rested ourselves under the shade of trees again, which were more refreshing, from having been scorched for above one month without a tree to shield us. We found the country here very pleasant, especially when compared with that we came from. We killed some deer also, and a creature like a goat, whose flesh was very good. We also shot a bird like a partridge, but somewhat smaller, and very tame; but we saw no people; and, to allay our pleasure, we were every night disturbed with lions and tigers. Elephants we saw none.

In three days march we came to a river that ran northward, which was the first stream we met that did so; it was a very rapid current; and our gunner assured me, that this was either the river Nile, or ran into the great lake out of which the river Nile was said to take its beginning. We staid here two days to refresh ourselves, in which time our Black Prince, who delighted to wander up and down, came and brought me several little bits of something which he thought a rarity. I took but little notice to him; but stepped out, and called the gunner, and told him what I thought; and he, as well as myself, agreed that it certainly was gold. While we were discoursing on the subject, our companions, who had been told by the Black Prince, came to see his wonderful curiosity; and they were all of our opinion. This being the case, I proposed going immediately to the place where he found it, and if there was any quantity to be had, to stay here some time, and see what we could make of it. Accordingly every man of us went; and we found that it was not the main river, but a small stream which ran into it, that produced the gold. Then we fell to work in raking the sand, and washing it in our hands; and in each handful of sand we seldom failed of finding some little lumps as big as a pin's head, and sometimes as big as a grapestone: after two or three hours work, every one having got some, we left off, and went to dinner. After dinner, we all went cheerfully to work, negroes and all, and spent about three weeks in dabbling down the stream; in which time we had gone but six miles on our way; and the higher we went, the more gold we found. At length having passed by the side of a hill, we perceived no more was to be obtained: it therefore occurred to us, that the gold must proceed from that hill.

We now went back, and fell to work on the hill, where the earth was loose, and of a yellowish loamy colour, and in some places a hard white stone, which we had no instruments to move; so having passed that, we scratched into the loose mould with our fingers, and came to a place where the earth, to the quantity of about two bushels, crumbled down with little more than touching it, and shewed us that there was a great deal of gold in it. We



took it carefully up, and washed away the loamy earth, and the gold dust, as before, remained behind.

When we came to bring our stock together at night, it appeared we had found, by that day's work, about fifty pounds weight; and about thirty-four pounds weight more during our labour on the river. Having thus brought all our stock together, the division amounted to about three pounds and a half a man, according to a scale made by our ingenious artist, and which we afterwards discovered produced near two ounces more in each pound. Besides this, we left seven or eight pounds in the hands of our artist, for the purposes of traffic; and about a pound more we gave our Black Prince, who worked it up into little beads, through which having drilled holes, he with much ingenuity formed a handsome necklace.

We had now been five months and upwards on our journey; and being in a climate that had a winter as well as summer, though of a different kind from our own country, we were to expect a wet season, and such a one as we should not be able to travel in, and, what was still more, it drew on us apace: we therefore thought it adviseable to call a general council, to consult on the best place to encamp for the winter. The place we chose was near our golden river, yet far enough to be out of the reach of floods. Here having pitched our tents, we pallisaded them all round, in order to secure us from the attack of wild beasts. This work being completed to our satisfaction, we next cut a prodigious quantity of wood, and piled it in a heap to dry, the green boughs of which served for a second covering to our roof. This we put on so effectually, as to shoot off the rain, and keep us perfectly dry.

We had scarcely finished, when the rain came down in torrents, and with little abatement, so that we could not stir abroad for food; but our negroes, who wore no cloaths, made nothing of it; though to Europeans, in these hot climates, there is not any thing more dangerous. We continued here from the middle of June to the middle of October; and during our encampment had many adventures with wild beasts; and had we not always kept our fire burning, I question whether our fence, which consisted of many rows of strong tall stakes, would have kept us secure.

One windy tempestuous night, after a very rainy day, we were all called up; for such an innumerable number of wild beasts surrounded us, that our watch really thought they would attack us. They would not come on the side where our fire was; and though we thought ourselves secure every where else, yet we got up, and took to our arms, when happening to look on the back part of our camp, I saw a creature nearly within our fortification; for he had thrown himself, with all his strength, clear over the pallisadoes, except one strong pile, which stood higher than the rest, and upon this he hung by the haunches, growling and biting the wood for rage. I instantly snatched a lance from one of the negroes, struck it three or four times through him, and dispatched him. We then



fired a volley among the rest, whom we could see standing without as thick as a drove of cattle at a fair. Most of our pieces being loaded with two or three bullets a piece, it made a horrible clatter amongst them; and in general they took to their heels: only we could observe that some marched off with more gravity than others; and we could perceive that some were left upon the ground struggling for life; but we durst not then stir out to see what they were. But though all but the killed and wounded fled, we heard a frightful roaring all night; and as soon as daylight returned, we sallied out, to see what execution had been done; and found three tigers and two wolves just dead; besides the creature within our pallisades, which appeared between a tiger and a leopard. Besides these, there was an old lion, with both his fore legs broken, so that he could not get away; and we found it was him that roared so loud, and gave us so much disturbance, which the gunner now put an end to, by shooting him through the head; and for which we termed him the King-killer ever after. Our negroes likewise found five other ravenous creatures wounded, and fallen at a distance, whereof one was a wolf, one a fine young leopard; the others, of a species with which we were unacquainted. We had several visits afterwards, but never such a general rendezvous: it had, however, one ill effect, which was, that it frightened the deer, and other creatures away, of whose company we were desirous, and who were necessary for our subsistence. Our negroes, however, went out daily with their bows and arrows, and seldom failed bringing in something; and particularly we found in this part of the country, after the rains, abundance of wild fowl, such as we have in England, and some kinds I had never seen before. We likewise caught abundance of fish in the river; so that we had plenty of provision. The only thing we wanted was salt.

About the middle of October we set forward, and having an easy country to travel in, and plenty of provisions, we made more dispatch, travelling sometimes twenty-five miles, and not halting in eleven days only once, to make a raft to carry us over a small river, swelled by the rain. Having passed this river, we discovered a ridge of hills; and were much surprised, when one of our company, who, with two negroes, reached the top before us, cried out, "The Sea! the Sea!" and began dancing and capering as if he was mad. We all concluded the man must be strangely mistaken; for we had only that morning been calculating that we were at least one thousand miles distant from the sea coast, and that we could not expect to reach it until another rainy season was past. But what was our amazement, when, coming to the top of the hill, we saw nothing but water either before us, or to the right hand or left; being a vast sea, bounded only by the horizon! We went down the hill full of perplexity, not being able to conceive whereabouts we were, or what this could be, seeing, by our charts, that the sea was yet at a great distance.

About three miles walk from the hills brought us to the water's

edge; and there, to our further surprise, we found the water fresh and pleasant; so that, in short, we knew not what course to take. However, after having passed a great part of the day in consulting, we agreed to travel north. We kept the shore full twenty-five days, before we could come to any certainty respecting it; at the end of which, early one morning, one of the seamen called out land, and we saw plainly the tops of hills at a great distance due west; but though this satisfied us that it was not the ocean, but an inland sea or lake, yet we saw no land to the northward, and were obliged to travel eight days more, near one hundred miles, before we came to the end of it, and then we found this vast body of water ended in a great river, which ran N. or N. by E. The gunner again examined his charts, and said that he believed he was mistaken before, and that this must be the river Nile. We therefore resolved on crossing it, which, however, was not so easy as before, the stream being rapid, and the channel very broad. It cost us a week to procure materials to waft ourselves and cattle over: for though here was plenty of trees, yet there were none of considerable growth sufficient to form a canoe. During our march on the edge of this water, we underwent great fatigue, and therefore travelled fewer miles a day, having a number of small rivers to cross, which came from the hills, and emptied themselves into this gulph.

In the last three days of our travels we met with some inhabitants; but we found they lived on the hills, and not by the water side; so that we were not a little put to it for food in this march, having killed nothing for four or five days: some fish, indeed, we caught out of the lake, but not in such plenty as we found before. However, to make us some amends, we had no disturbance from wild beasts. The only inconvenience of this kind, was an ugly, venomous kind of serpent in the wet grounds, that several times pursued us, as if it would attack us; and if we struck at, or threw any thing at it, would raise itself up, and hiss so loud, that it might be heard at a great distance.

After having passed the river with much difficulty, we came into a strange wild country; for though it was not a desert of dry, scalding sand, like that we had passed before, yet it was mountainous, barren, and infinitely more infested with furious wild beasts, than any place we had yet passed. There was, indeed, a coarse kind of herbage on the surface, and now and then a few trees, or rather shrubs; but people we could see none: we therefore began to be alarmed, being not able to lay in a stock of provisions; and, what was still worse, without any certainty of a supply. We, however, had no remedy but patience; and therefore travelled on for five days, at a very short allowance. On the sixth day we were almost famished; and on the eighth were constrained to kill one of our poor, faithful servants, a buffalo. The flesh of this creature was very good; and so sparingly did we eat of it, that it lasted us three days and a half; and we were just upon the point of killing another, when we saw before us a country that pro-

misfed relief, having high trees, and a large river running through it. This encouraged us; and we quickened our march for the river side, though with empty stomachs, and very faint and weak; but, before we reached it, we had the good fortune to shoot three young deer; and never gave the flesh time to cool before we eat it, being in short almost famished. Through all that inhospitable country we saw continually lions, tigers, leopards, civit cats, and other voracious creatures that we did not know the names of; but no elephants, though every now and then we met with their teeth lying on the ground; and some of them half buried, as it were, by length of time.

On the further bank of this river we saw some sign of inhabitants, but met none the first day. The next day we came to an inhabited country, the people negroes, and totally naked. We made signs of friendship to them, and found them civil and well behaved; and having signified that we were an hungry, some of their women immediately ran and fetched us some roots, and other things, like pumpkins: and our artificer exhibiting some of his trinkets, they brought us three living creatures, such as we had never seen before, about the size of a calf; and after that twelve more; and some smaller animals, like hares; the flesh of both being very good. Having procured what provision we wanted, we began to enquire our way, pointing to the west; but they made us understand, by signs, that we could not go that way; but that we might go north-west; for that there was another lake in our way; and, indeed, in two days march we saw it plainly, and it held us until we passed the equinoctial line, lying all the way on our left hand, though at a great distance.

The gunner advised us, as soon as we had passed this lake, to proceed W. S. W. a little inclining to the south, by which means in time we should meet with the great river Congo, being a little north of Angola, where we intended to go first. But we had not marched more than twelve days, (eight being taken up in rounding the lake, and four more south-west, in order to make for the river Congo,) when we were put to a full stop, by entering another terrible desert, and apparently boundless: nor had we any way to get a stock of provisions for passing this, as we did that before. Notwithstanding this, we ventured, and the rather because we perceived some high mountains at a great distance, which indicated a change of soil. In consequence of this speculation, we continued our way, having roots and plants, a very little flesh, and but a short allowance of water, for our subsistence.

Having travelled two days, the hills seemed to be as far off as ever, and it was the fifth day before we reached them. Indeed, we travelled slowly, as it was excessive hot, being now much about the Equinoctial line; but we scarcely knew whether to the south or north of it. We had concluded that among the hills we should find springs; but we were not only surprised, but affrighted, to find the first we came to as salt as brine; but our gunner, who was of a spirit never to be discouraged, told us, that we ought to be



thankful, instead of being disturbed, as salt was what we very much stood in need of. Our surgeon also stepped in to encourage us, saying, he would presently shew us how to make this water fresh. This, indeed, made us cheerful. He took two of our largest mats, and sewed them together, and having made a kind of bag, he caused it to be filled with dry sand, and trod down as close as possible not to burst the mats. When the bag was full within a foot, he sought some other earth, and filled it up to the top, and trod that down likewise: he then made a hole in the upper earth, about as big as the crown of a hat, but not so deep, and made a negroe fill it with water, repeating it as the water shrunk. The bag had been placed upon two poles about a foot from the ground, and some skins that would hold water underneath; in about an hour the water came dripping through the bottom of the bag, and to our great surprise and satisfaction perfectly sweet. This trial continued for several hours; but in the end the water became brackish; and he then made the bag be emptied, and replaced with fresh sand and earth as before.

The next day we mounted the hills, where the prospect was truly astonishing; as far as the eye could reach, nothing was to be seen but a vast desert, with neither tree, river, or any green thing. The surface we found, like the part we passed before, had a kind of thick moss upon it, of a dead black colour, but nothing that looked like food, either for man or beast. Before us was nothing but horror; so we resolved to keep under the foot of the hills on the east side; to go as far as we could, and to look out diligently for food. Accordingly we moved on the next morning, (for we had no time to lose,) and, to our great comfort, we came in our first march to very good springs of fresh water; and, lest we should have a scarcity again, we filled our bladder bottles, and carried with us. I should have remarked, that our surgeon made us some salt at the salt springs.

In this march we found an unexpected supply of food, the hills being full of hares: they were of a different kind to what we have in England, being much larger, not so swift of foot, but very good meat. We shot numbers of them; and our little tame leopard, that we found at the negroe town, hunted them like a dog, and killed several every day, but would not eat them, unless we fed him, which in our circumstances was very convenient. We salted them a little, and dried them in the sun whole.

We continued our course under these hills very comfortably for eight days, when we found, to our great satisfaction, the country beyond us began to look something of a better countenance. On the tenth day, finding the hills made a turn leading into the vast desert, we left them, and continued our course with the country, being tolerably full of woods, and some waste, though not tediously long, till we came, by our gunner's observation, into the latitude of eight degrees five minutes, which we were nineteen days more in performing. All this time we saw no inhabitants, but abundance of wild creatures: these, however, we were now



so well acquainted with, that we did not mind them. Our long march, indeed, fatigued us much; and two of our men fell so sick, that we thought they would have died. One of our negroes died suddenly; and another of them was very ill, but, being bled, he recovered. We halted here twelve days, for the sake of our sick men; and our surgeon persuaded me, and some more, to be let blood during this time of rest, which, with the things he gave us, contributed very much to our health during our tedious march in so hot a climate.

Our men being recovered, we set forward again, well stored with provisions, and water sufficient. We now bent our course a little to the westward, in hopes of finding a stream which might bear a canoe, but we found none in twenty days, including eight days rest; for our men being weak, we rested wherever we found a place to our minds, and that was likely to furnish any thing for food. At the end of twenty days travel, we discovered in a valley, at some distance, a pretty tolerable stream, which we thought deserved the name of a river, and which ran its course N. N. W. which was just what we wanted. There was a small thicket of trees just in our way, passing by which, one of our negroes was suddenly wounded with an arrow. This put us to a full stop: and three of our men, and two blacks, rushing into the wood, found a negro with a bow, but no arrow, and shot him in retaliation of the mischief he had done.

Going a little further, we came to five negro huts; and at the door of one of them lay seven elephants teeth piled up against the wall. Here were no men, but seven or eight women, and near twenty children. We offered them no incivility, but gave them every one a bit of silver beaten out thin, and cut diamond fashion, at which the women were overjoyed, and brought us out several sorts of food. We went a little farther, and pitched our camp for the night, not doubting but our civility to the women would produce some good effect when their husbands came home. Accordingly, the next morning the women, with eleven men, five young boys, and two girls, came to our camp, and made us signs of friendship; giving us a sort of cake, and some green herbs. Making them understand that we wanted provision, one of the men suddenly started from the ground, where he had been seated, then casting his eyes towards a rising ground, about half a mile distant, and snatching up a bow and two arrows, he set off with the speed of a race-horse, and having discharged both his arrows, he returned with the same speed, and beckoned one of our negroes, whom he led back to the place, where lay a deer recently shot; this they brought back between them, and was a very acceptable gift.

The next day there came about an hundred men and women, making every sign of friendship, and dancing about us, shewing themselves very well pleased with our company. How the man in the wood came to shoot at our men, we could not imagine; for these people were the most simple and inoffensive of any that we had yet conversed with.

From hence we proceeded down the banks of the river, which we found of no service to us in our design of making canoes ; for though we pitched our tents five days march lower down the stream, and began our work, we soon relinquished it ; as some of our men, who had wandered lower down the stream, brought us intelligence that they found it decrease rapidly, either by the heat of the sun, or sinking in the sand, so that it would soon be incapable of floating a canoe. We then marched three days full west, the country on the north side being extraordinary mountainous, and more parched, if possible, than any we had yet seen ; while westward we found a pleasant valley, running a considerable way between two great ridges of mountains. The hills looked frightful, bare of trees or grass, and white with the dryness of the sand ; but in the valley we found trees, grass, some creatures fit for food, and also some inhabitants. We passed by some of their huts, and saw people about them ; but as soon as they saw us, they fled to the mountains ; and as we found something or other in this tract to supply our wants, we were not very anxious of conversing with them, so kept on our way until we came to a pleasant stream of water, scarcely large enough to be called a river, but running N. N. W. which was the very course we desired to go.

On the farthest bank of this brook we perceived some negroe huts, though not many ; and in a little low spot of ground some maize, or Indian corn, growing ; a plain indication that there were some inhabitants more civilized than what we had yet seen.

As we went forward, our whole caravan being in a body, our negroes, who were in front, called out that they saw a white man. Thinking it was some mistake, we asked what they meant ; when one of them pointing to a hut on the side of a hill, we were astonished to see a white man indeed, but stark naked, very busy near the door of his hut, and stooping down with something in his hand, and so intent upon his work, that he did not see us. The man hearing some noise, looked up, and soon perceived us ; as likewise did the rest of the inhabitants, all crowding together to have a sight of us, and not knowing at first whether to stay or run away. This, however, was soon decided by our tying a piece of white rag to the end of a pole, and sending two negroes with it towards them, as an insignia of peace, and which it seems they immediately understood ; two of their negroes and the white man coming directly down to the water's edge, and soon after crossing over.

In about half a quarter of an hour one of our negroes came running, and told me that the white man was *Inglese* ; upon which I ran directly to the spot, and found indeed that he was an Englishman : and so affected was he at meeting thus unexpectedly a countryman in such a remote quarter, that he embraced me passionately, the tears all the time running down his cheeks. He was a man of about thirty-five years old ; and, in spite of all the disadvantages under which he laboured, had the manner of a gentleman ; and our people were exceedingly pleased with him. He was also a good mathematician, and understood several languages.

At first he had no leisure to ask from whence we came, or whither we were going, saying, he was sure we were sent from heaven purposely to rescue him from the most miserable state man was ever reduced to. When his joy had a little subsided, he began to enquire what store of provision we had; and when he found our stock was small, he said he would talk with the natives, and we should be plentifully supplied; for that the inhabitants of that part of the country were the most courteous and good-natured in all Africa.

These poor people did not possess much information, being at the distance of above three hundred miles from the coast; they, however, carried elephants teeth, which they found on the hills to the north, sixty or seventy miles south, where other negroes met, and gave them in exchange, beads, glais, shells, and the like. Though we made but a sorry figure ourselves, yet we nevertheless contrived to cloath our new acquaintance, though after a scanty fashion. As he had been curious to hear the story of our travels, we were no less so to have a relation of his, which was as follows. He had been a factor to the African company at Sierra-Leona, where one of the settlements being taken by the French, he had been plundered of all his effects, as well as those intrusted to him; after which he was for some time employed by those called separate traders. He afterwards traded on his own account, in the course of which he was captured by some of the natives, from whom he fled to another nation, where not liking his quarters, he changed again and again; until at length wandering beyond a possibility of return, he had taken up his abode where we found him.

We asked him what we should do towards getting to the sea side. He told us we were about one hundred and twenty leagues from the coast; that there were many different nations of negroes in the way; that it was ten to one that we were not fought with continually, or starved for want of provision. We then enquired the way to the Gold Coast, and if there were no rivers to ease us in our journey; and told him that, as to the negroes' fighting us, we were not much concerned about that; that if they had any victuals, we would have our share; and that, if he would venture with us, and shew us the way, we would live and die together. He answered, that if we were resolved, he undoubtedly would take his fate with us, and would engage to conduct us a way where we should meet with some friendly savages, who would use us well. So, in a word, we all resolved to travel south for the Gold Coast.

We continued here twelve days, during which time we found the natives very friendly; for they brought us plenty of what they had, and in return we gave them such little things as our cutler made, for he had now a whole bag full of them. On the thirtieth day we set forward, taking our new acquaintance with us, bending our course south: and here we found a river whose water ran southward, all those before running north or west. We fol-



lowed the course of this river, which at first was no bigger than a brook, until it began to increase its water. Every now and then we observed our Englishman went down to the water, until at length, after a day's march, he came running to us with his hands full of sand, saying, "Look here." Upon examining it, we found a great deal of gold lay spangled among it.—"Now," says she, "I think we may begin to work."—So we divided our negroes into couples, to search the sand in the bottom of the river where it was not very deep.

In the first day we gathered about a pound and two ounces; and as we found the quantity increase the farther we went, we followed it for three days, until another small rivulet joined the first. Searching up the stream, we found gold there too: so we pitched our camp, and continued thirteen days more, in which time we had many adventures with the natives; at one of whose towns we were friendly received by the king, who, in recompence for an elephant cut out of a gold plate, as thin as a sixpence, gave us almost an handful of gold dust: and here our new guide told us, that though he had more reason to be sick of the country than any of us; yet, now we were here, we might, if we pleased, enrich ourselves with what quantity we liked; even to an hundred weight a man.

Though heartily weary of above twelve months continued wandering among deserts and wild beasts, yet still our new acquaintance's pleadings in favour of riches carried with them an irresistible charm. Our surgeon was the first that yielded to his reasoning; and after him the gunner. These two easily prevailed on the rest of us to stay but for six months; so having yielded, he conducted us about fifty miles south-east, where we found the country barren enough, yet, by the assistance of our toys, the savages furnished us with plenty of food.

As soon as we were settled, and our camp fixed, we fell to our old trade of gold fishing; and our Englishman knew so well how to direct our search, that we seldom lost our labour. One time having set us all to work, he asked if we would give him leave to go out for six or seven days, and take four or five of the negroes with him, assuring us, that what he got should be added to the common stock. Having given our consent, and lent him a gun, two of our men, and six negroes, accompanied him, together with two of the buffaloes, which they took with them to carry about eight days provision. They were gone two-and-fifty days, and returned with somewhat above seventeen pounds weight of gold dust, and about fifteen ton of elephants teeth, which they had induced the savages to bring down from the mountains. Indeed, we wondered what was coming, when we saw our party returning with about two hundred negroes at their heels. Besides this, he brought us two lion and five leopard skins, very fine. He then asked our pardon for his long stay, and bringing no greater booty; but said that he had one more excursion to make, which he hoped would turn to a better account. Having rested himself,



and rewarded the savages with some little toys, he sent them away mightily pleased.

The second journey some more of the men desired to go; so they made a troop of ten white men, ten negroes, and two buffaloes. They were out two-and-thirty days only, in which time they killed fifteen leopards, three lions, and several other creatures, and brought home twenty four pounds and some ounces of gold dust; but only six teeth, though very large ones.

In five months that we had been here, we had gathered as much gold dust as amounted to five pounds and a quarter a man, exclusive of what we had before, and what we had given our artificer to work up; and now we talked of going forward to the coast, at which our guide laughed, telling us, that we could not go now; for that the rainy season was just commencing. This being the case, we resolved to furnish ourselves with provisions, which we had scarcely obtained, before the rains came on with such violence, that for above two months we could scarcely leave our huts.

As soon as the weather was fair, he told us he would not press our stay, though we were the first men he ever met with in his life that said they had gold enough; but that, if we stayed but one month, we should see thousands of savages coming from all parts to gather gold for the European ships; and if we took the advantage before them, we did not know the extraordinary things we might find. In fine, we yielded to his arguments; and as soon as the rivers were reduced to their usual channels, by the floods abating, we again began our work, and in a few days were fully requited, finding much more gold than before, and in bigger lumps; one of our men washing out of the sand a piece as big as a small nut, which, by our estimation, weighed an ounce and an half.

In a word, to bring this journey to a conclusion, we increased our stock so as to divide four pounds weight more per man, and then set forward for the Gold Coast; having prevailed on a negro king to let his subjects carry our elephants' teeth down to a navigable river, where we made rafts, which, in eleven days, brought us all down to one of the Dutch settlements on the Gold Coast, where we arrived in perfect health. Our cargo of teeth we sold to the Dutch factory, and received cloaths and other necessaries in exchange. We had four pounds of gunpowder left when we ended our journey. Our negro prince we made free, giving him a pound and half of gold, which he had learned how to manage. Here we all parted in the most friendly manner. Our Englishman remained in the Dutch factory some time, and, as I afterwards heard, died of grief; for having sent his gold over to England by the way of Holland, the ship was taken by the French, and all the effects lost. The rest of my comrades went to the Portuguese factory; and I and two negroes to Cape Coast Castle, where I got a passage for England, arriving there in September; and thus happily ended my first voyage.

*Further Adventures, and Piracies,*  
OF  
*CAPTAIN ROBERT SINGLETON.*

I HAD neither friend, relation, nor acquaintance in England, though it was my native country: I had consequently no person to trust with what I had, or to counsel me to secure or save it; but falling in to ill company, and trusting the keeper of a public-house in Rotherhithe with a great part of my money, and hastily squandering away the rest, all that great sum, which I got with so much pains and hazard, was gone in little more than two years time; and as I even rage in my own thoughts to reflect upon the manner how it was wasted, so I need record no more: the rest merits to be concealed with blushes, for that it was spent in all kinds of folly and wickedness; so that this scene of my life may be said to have begun in theft, and ended in luxury; a sad setting-out, and a worse coming-home.

I now began to see the bottom of my stock, and that it was high time to think of farther adventures; for my spoilers, as I call them, began to let me know, that, as my money declined, their respect would ebb with it, and that I had nothing to expect of them, farther than as I might command it by the force of my money, which, in short, would not go an inch the farther for all that had been spent in their favour before.

This shocked me very much, and I conceived a just abhorrence of their ingratitude; but it wore off; nor had I ever shewn any regret at the wasting so glorious a sum of money as I brought to England with me.

I next shipped myself, in an evil hour, on a voyage to Cadiz, in a ship called the *Fortune*, and in the course of our voyage, being on the coast of Spain, was obliged to put into the Groyne, by a strong south-west wind.

Here I fell into company with some masters of mischief; and among them, one forwarder than the rest, began an intimate confidence with me; so that we called one another brothers, and communicated all our circumstances to each other: his name was Harris. This fellow came to me one morning, and asked me if I would go on shore; so we got the captain's leave for the boat, and went. When we were together, he asked me if I had a mind for an adventure that might make amends for all past misfortunes. I told him, with all my heart; for I did not care where I went, having nothing to lose, and nobody to leave behind me.

He then asked me if I would swear to be secret: and that if I did not agree to what he proposed, I would nevertheless never betray him. I readily bound myself to that; upon the most solemn imprecations and curses that the Devil and both of us could invent,

He told me then, there was a brave fellow in the other ship, pointing to another English ship which rode in the harbour, who, in concert with some of the men, had resolved to mutiny the next morning, and run away with the ship; and that, if we could get strength enough among our ship's company, we might do the same. I liked the proposal very well, and he got eight of us to join with him; and he told us, that as soon as his friend had begun the work, and was master of the ship, we should be ready to do the like. This was his plot; and I, without the least hesitation, either at the villainy of the act, or the difficulty of performing it, came immediately into the wicked conspiracy, and so it went on among us; but we could not bring our part to perfection. Accordingly, on the day appointed, his correspondent in the other ship, whose name was Wilmot, began the work, and having seized the captain's mate, and other officers, secured the ship and gave the signal to us. We were but eleven in our ship, who were in the conspiracy; nor could we get any more that we could trust; so that, leaving the ship, we all took the boat, and went off to join the others. Having thus left the ship I was in, we were entertained with a great deal of joy by captain Wilmot and his new gang; and were well prepared for all manner of roguery.

Captain Wilmot, for so we are now to call him, being thus possessed of a ship, and in the manner as you have heard, it may be easily concluded, he had nothing to do to stay in the port, or to wait either the attempts that might be made from the shore, or any change which might happen among his men. On the contrary, we weighed anchor the same tide, and stood out to sea, steering away for the Canaries. Our ship had twenty-two guns, but was able to carry thirty; and besides, as she was fitted out for a merchant ship only, she was not furnished either with ammunition or small arms sufficient for our design, or for the occasion we might have in case of a fight; so we put into Cadiz; that is to say, we came to an anchor in the Bay; and the captain, and one whom we called young Captain Kid, who was the gunner, and some of the men who could best be trusted, among whom was my comrade Harris, who was made second mate, and myself, who was made lieutenant, some bales of English goods were proposed to be carried on shore with us for sale; but my comrade, who was a complete fellow at his business, proposed a better way for it; and having been in the town before, told us in short, that he would buy what powder and ball, small arms, or any thing else we wanted, on his own word, to be paid for when they came on board, in such English goods as we had there. This was by much the best way; and accordingly he and the captain went on shore by themselves, and having made such a bargain as they found for their turn, came away again in two hours time, and bringing only a butt of wine, and five casks of brandy with them, we all went on board again.

The next morning two barco-longas came off to us deeply



laden, with five Spaniards on board them for traffic. Our captain sold them good pennyworths, and they delivered us arms, ammunition, wines, &c. &c.

From hence we sailed to the Canaries, and from thence onward to the West-Indies, where we committed some depredations upon the Spaniards for provision, and took some prizes, while I remained with them, which was not long after at that time; for having taken a Spanish sloop on the coast of Carthagena, my friend made a motion to me, that we should desire Captain Wilmot to put us into the sloop, with a proportion of arms and ammunition, and let us try what we could do; she being much fitter for our business than the great ship, and a better sailer. This he consented to, and we appointed our rendezvous at Tobago; making an agreement, that whatever was taken by either of our ships, should be shared among the ship's company of both; all which we very punctually observed, and joined our ships again about fifteen months after at the island of Tobago.

We had one very merry fellow, a Quaker, whose name was William Walters, whom we took out of a sloop bound from Pennsylvania to Barbadoes. He was a surgeon, and they called him doctor; but he was not employed in the sloop as a surgeon, but was going to Barbadoes to get a birth, as the sailors call it. However, he had all his surgeon's chest on board, and we made him go with us, and take all his instruments with him. He was a comical fellow indeed; a man of very good sense, and an excellent surgeon; but, what was worth all, very good humoured and pleasant in conversation; and a bold, stout fellow too, as any we had among us.

We parted from Tobago three days after, bending our course for the coast of Brasil; but had not been at sea above twenty-four hours, when we were separated by a terrible storm, which held three days, with a very little abatement or intermission. In this juncture, Captain Wilmot happened unluckily to be on board my ship, very much to his mortification; for we not only lost sight of his ship, but never saw her more, till we came to Madagascar, where she was cast away. In short, after having in this tempest lost our fore-topmast, we were forced to put back to the Isle of Tobago for shelter, and to repair our damage, which brought us all very near our destruction.

We were no sooner on shore here, and all very busy looking out for a piece of timber for a top-mast, but we perceived, standing in for the shore, an English man of war of thirty-six guns. It was a great surprise to us indeed, because we were disabled so much; but, to our great good fortune, we lay pretty snug and close among the high rocks; and the man of war did not see us, but stood off again upon her cruise: so we only observed which way she went; and at night, leaving our work, resolved to stand

off to sea, steering the contrary way from that which we observed she went: and this we found had the desired success, for we saw her no more. We had gotten an old mizen-top-mast on board, which made us a jury fore-top mast for the present; and so we stood away for the Isle Trinidad, where, though there were Spaniards on shore, yet we landed some men with our boat, and cut a very good piece of fir to make us a new top-mast, which we got fitted up effectually: and we also got some cattle here to eke out our provisions; and calling a council of war among ourselves, we resolved to quit those seas for the present, and steer away for the coast of Brasil.

It was not long before we saw a sail, and immediately gave her chase; but she proved an excellent sailer, and standing out to sea, we saw plainly she trusted to her heels, that is to say, to her sails; however, as ours was a clean ship, we gained upon her, though slowly: and, had we had the day before us, we should certainly have come up with her; but it grew dark apace, and in that case we knew we should lose sight of her.

Accordingly, we put about ship, got our larboard tacks on board, set the top-gallant sails, and crowded for the Bay of All-Saints, where we came to an anchor, early in the morning, just out of gun-shot of the forts. We furled our sails with rope-yarns, that we might haul home the sheets without going up to loose them, and lowering our main and fore yards, looked just as if we had lain there a good while.

In two hours after we saw our game standing in for the bay with all the sail she could make; and she came innocently into our very mouth; for we lay still till we saw her almost within gun-shot; when our fore-mast geers being stretched fore and aft, we first run up our yards, and then hauled home the top-sail sheets: The rope-yarns that furled them giving way of themselves, the sails were set in a few minutes; at the same time slipping our cable, we came upon her before she could get under way upon t'other tack. They were so surprised, that they made little or no resistance, but struck after the first broadside.

She was loaded with nothing considerable for our purpose, except some cocoa, some sugar, and twenty barrels of flour; the rest of her loading was hides; so we took out all we thought fit for our turn, and, among the rest, all her ammunition, great shot, and small arms, and turned her off. We also took a cable and three anchors she had, which were fit for our purpose, and some of her sails; she had enough left just to carry her into port, and that was all.

Having done this, we stood on upon the Brasil coast southward, till we came to the mouth of the river Janeiro: but as we had two days the wind blowing hard at S. E. and S. S. E. we were obliged to come to anchor under a little island, and wait for a wind. In this time the Portuguese had, it seems, given notice over land to the governor there, that a pirate was upon the coast; so that when

we came in view of the port, we saw two men of war riding just without the bar, whereof one we found was getting under sail with all possible speed, having slipped her cable on purpose to speak with us. The other was not so forward, but was preparing to follow. In less than an hour they stood both fair after us, with all the sail they could make.

Had not the night come on, they would certainly have asked us the question what we did there; for we found the foremost ship gained upon us, especially upon one tack; for we plied away from them to windward; but in the dark losing sight of them, we resolved to change our course, and stand away directly to sea, not doubting but we should lose them in the night.

Whether the Portuguese commander guessed we would do so or not, I know not; but in the morning, when the day-light appeared, instead of having lost him, we found him in chase of us, about a league a-stern; only, to our great good fortune, we could see but one of the two; however, this one was a great ship, carrying six and forty guns, and an admirable sailer, as appeared by her out-sailing us; for our ship was an excellent sailer too, as I have said before.

When I found this, I easily saw there was no remedy, but we must engage; and as we knew we could expect no quarters from those scoundrels the Portuguese, a nation I had an original aversion to, I let Captain Wilmot know how it was. The captain, sick as he was, jumped up in the cabin, and would be led out upon the deck (for he was very weak) to see how it was.

Our men were all in good heart before; but to see the captain so brisk, who had lain ill of a calenture ten or eleven days, gave them double courage, and they went all hands to work, to make a clear ship and be ready.

Accordingly we shortened sail; and as we expected her upon our lee side, we being then upon our starboard tack, brought eighteen of our guns to the larboard-side, resolving to give him a broadside that should warm him. It was about half an hour before he came up with us, all which time we luffed up, that we might keep the wind of him, by which he was obliged to run up under our lee, as we designed him. When we got him upon our quarter, we edged down, and received the fire of five or six of his guns. By this time, you may be sure, all our hands were at their quarters; so we clapt our helm hard a-weather, let go the lee-braces of the main-top-sail, and laid it a-back, and so our ship fell athwart the Portuguese ship's hawse; then we immediately poured in our broadside, raking them fore and aft, and killed them a great many men.

The Portuguese, we could see, were in the utmost confusion; and not being aware of our design, their ship having fresh way, run their bowsprit into the fore part of our main shrouds, as they could not easily get clear of us, and so we lay locked after that manner; the enemy could not bring above two or three guns,



besides their small arms, to bear upon us, while we played our whole broadside upon him.

This work was too hot to hold long. Our men behaved bravely: our gunner, a gallant man, shouted below, pouring in his shot at such a rate that the Portuguese began to slacken their fire. We had dismounted several of their guns by firing in at their fore-castle, and raking them, as I said, fore and aft. Our second lieutenant, with about thirty men, entered in an instant over the fore-castle, followed by some more, with the boatswain, and cutting in pieces about twenty-five men that they found upon the deck, and then throwing some grenades into the steerage, they entered there also; upon which the Portuguese cried quarter presently, and we mastered the ship.

The surprise of joy, to hear the Portuguese cry quarter, and see their ancient struck, was so great to our captain, who, as I have said, was reduced very weak with a high fever, that it gave him new life.

In the mean time, I took possession of the Portuguese man of war; and Captain Wilmot made me, or rather I made myself, captain of her for the present. About thirty of their seamen took service with us, some of whom were French, some Genoese; and we set the rest on shore, the next day, on a little island on the coast of Brasil, except some wounded men, who were not in a condition to be removed, and whom we were bound to keep on board; but we had an occasion afterwards to dispose of them at the Cape, where at their own request we set them on shore.

My long-projected design now lay open to me, which was to steer towards the Dutch Spice Islands. Accordingly we put to sea, and passing the line, stood away due south, till we came to the Moluccas, or Spice Islands. Among these islands we cruised some time, and made ourselves masters of abundance of wealth in gold, nutmegs, cloves, and the like.

What we had taken was, indeed, so considerable, that it was not only enough to satisfy the most covetous and ambitious minds in the world, but did indeed satisfy us; and our men declared they did not desire any more. The next motion was about going back, so as not to be attacked by the Dutch in the Streights of Sunda.

We now put to sea, and stood away to the north for a while, to try if we could get a market for our spices: for we were very rich in nutmegs, but we ill knew what to do with them.

The only way we had was to stand away for Goa, and trade, if we could, for our spices with the Portuguese factory. Accordingly we sailed almost thither; for we made land two days before, and being in the latitude of Goa, were standing in fair for Marmagoon, on the head of Sasset, at the going up to Goa, when I called to the men at the helm to bring the ship to, and bid the pilot go away N. N. W. till we came out of sight of the shore; when William and I called a council, as we used to do on emergencies, what course we should take to trade there, and not be discovered;

and we concluded, at length, that we would not go thither at all; but that William, with such trusty fellows only as could be depended upon, should go in the sloop to Surat, which was still farther northward, and trade there as merchants, with such of the English factory as they could find to be for their turn.

William used such caution, that he found means to go on shore himself, and the doctor, as he called himself, in a boat which came on board them to sell fish, rowed with only Indians of the country, which boat he afterwards hired to carry him on board again. It was not long that they were on shore, before they found means to get acquainted with some Englishmen, who, though they lived there, and perhaps were the company's servants at first, yet appeared then to be traders for themselves, only the cargo was a little too much for them.

However, this did not prove a difficulty long with them; for the next day they brought two more merchants, English also, to join in their bargain; and as William could perceive, by their discourse, they resolved, if they bought them, to carry them to the Gulph of Persia upon their own account, William took the hint, and, as he told me afterwards, concluded we might carry them there as well as they. But this was not William's present business; he had here no less than three and thirty tons of nuts, and eighteen tons of cloves. There was a good quantity of mace among the nutmegs; but we did not stand to make much allowance. In short, they bargained; and the merchants, who would gladly have bought sloop and all, gave William directions, and two men for pilots, to go to a creek about six leagues from the factory, where they brought boats, and unloaded the whole cargo, and paid William very honestly for it; the whole parcel amounting, in money, to about thirty-five thousand pieces of eight, besides some goods of value, which William was content to take, and two large diamonds, worth about three hundred pounds sterling.

When they paid the money, William invited them on board the sloop, where they came; and the merry old Quaker diverted them exceedingly with his talk; and *thee'd 'em* and *thou'd 'em* till he made 'em so drunk, that they could not go on shore for that night. They would fain have known who our people were, and whence they came; but not a man in the sloop would answer them any question they asked. William told them he had another sloop, that lay at Marmagoon, which had a great quantity of spice on board also; and that, if it was not sold when he went back, (for that thither he was bound,) he would bring her up. Their new chaps were so eager, that they would have bargained with the old captain before-hand.

When he came back, we had another conference upon the subject of trade, namely, whether we should send the rest of our spices, and other goods we had in the ship, to Surat, or whether we should go up to the Gulph of Persia ourselves, where it was probable we might sell them as well as the English merchants of

Surat. William was for going ourselves, which, by the way, arose from the merchant-like temper of the man; who was for making the most of every thing: But here I over-ruled him, which I very seldom took upon me to do; and told him, that, considering our circumstances, it was much better for us to sell our cargoes here, though we made but half price of them, than go with them to the Gulph of Persia, where we should run a greater risque, and where people would be much more curious and inquisitive into things than they were here, and it would not be so easy to manage them, seeing they traded freely and openly there, not by stealth, as those men seemed to do; and besides, if they suspected any thing, it would be much more difficult for us to retreat, except by mere force, than here, where we were upon the high sea, as it were, and could be gone whenever we pleased, without any disguise, or indeed without the least appearance of being pursued, none knowing where to look for us.

William made no difficulty of selling this cargo also; and in about twenty days returned again, freighted with all necessary provisions for our voyage, and for a longer time. He brought us back about three and thirty thousand pieces of eight, and some diamonds, which, though he did not pretend to much skill in, yet he made shift to act so as not to be imposed upon, the merchants he had to deal with too being very honest men.

This might be called the only trading voyage we had made: And now we were really very rich. It then came naturally before us to consider whither we should go next. Our proper delivery port, as we ought to have called it, was at Madagascar, in the bay of Mangahelley: But William took me by myself into the cabin of the sloop one day, and told me, he wanted to talk seriously with me a little; so we shut ourselves in, and William began thus. In the first place, says William, shall I ask thee if thou dost not think thou and all thy men are rich enough, and have really gotten as much wealth together (by whatsoever way it has been gotten is not the question) as ye all know what to do with?

Why truly, William, said I, thou art pretty right; I think we have had pretty good luck.

Well then, says William, I would ask, whether, if thou hast gotten enough, thou hast any thought of leaving off this trade; for most people leave of trading when they are satisfied with getting, and are rich enough; and nobody trades for the sake of trading; much less do any men rob for the sake of thieving.

Well, William, says I, now I perceive what it is thou art driving at. I warrant you, says I, you begin to hanker after home.

Why truly, says William, thou hast said it, and so I hope thou dost too. It is natural for most men that are abroad to desire to return home again at last, especially when they are grown rich, and when they are (as thou ownest thyself to be) rich enough, and so rich, that they know not what to do with more if they had it.



Well, William, said I; but now you think you have laid your preliminary at first so home, that I should have nothing to say; that is, that when I had got money enough, it would be natural to think of going home: But you have not explained what you mean by home; and there you and I shall differ. Why, man, I am at home; here is my habitation; I never had any other in my life-time: I was a kind of charity-school boy; so that I can have no desire of going any where for being rich or poor, for I have no where to go.

Why, says William, looking a little confused, art not thou an Englishman? Yes, says I, I think so; you see I speak English: But I came out of England a child, and never was in it but once since I was a man; and then I was cheated and imposed upon, and used so ill, that I care not if I never see it more.

Why, hast thou no relations or friends there? says he: No acquaintance; none that thou hast any kindness, or any remains of respect for?

Not I, William, said I, not one, more than I have in the court of the Great Mogul.

Nor any kindness for the country where thou wast born? says William.

Not I, any more than for the island of Madagascar; nor so much neither; for that has been a fortunate island to me more than once, as thou knowest, William, said I.

William was quite stunned at my discourse, and held his peace; and I said to him, Go on, William; what hast thou to say farther? For I hear you have some project in your head, says I; come, let's have it out.

Nay, says William, thou hast put me to silence, and all I had to say is overthrown. All my projects are come to nothing, and gone.

Well, but William, said I, let me hear what they were; for though it is so that what I have to aim at does not look your way, and though I have no relation, no friend, no acquaintance in England, yet I do not say I like this roving, cruising life, so well as never to give it over. Let me hear if thou canst propose to me any thing beyond it.

Certainly, friend, says William, very gravely, there is something beyond it; and lifting up his hands, he seemed very much affected, and I thought I saw tears stand in his eyes; but I, who was too hardened a wretch to be moved with these things, laughed at him. What! says I, you mean death, I warrant you, don't you, that is beyond this trade? Why, when it comes, it comes; then we are all provided for.

You will easily believe I was well qualified for a pirate, that could talk thus; but let me leave it upon record, for the remark of other hardened rogues like myself, my conscience gave me a pang that I never felt before, when I said, *What signifies thinking of it?*

and told me, I should one day think of these words with a sad heart ; but the time of my reflection was not yet come.

Come, William, says I, thou shewest me plain enough thou hast an honest meaning. Dost thou think it is practicable for us to put an end to our unhappy way of living here, and get off ?

Yes, says he, I think it is very practicable for me. Whether it is for thee or no, that will depend upon thyself.

Well, says I, I give you my word, that as I have commanded you all along, from the time I first took you on board, so you shall command me from this hour ; and every thing you direct me I'll do.

Why then, says William, my scheme is this. We are now at the mouth of the Gulph of Persia : we have sold so much of our cargo here at Surat, that we have money enough. Send me away for Bassora with the sloop, loaden with the China goods we have on board, which will make another good cargo ; and I'll warrant thee I'll find means, among the English and Dutch merchants there, to lodge a quantity of goods and money also as a merchant ; so that we will be able to have recourse to it again upon any occasion ; and when I come home, we will contrive the rest ; and in the mean time do you bring the ship's crew to take a resolution to go to Madagascar as soon as I return.

We had taken a large sum of money at Surat ; so that we had near a hundred thousand pounds in money at our command ; but on board the great ship we had still a great deal more.

I ordered him publickly to keep the money on board which he had, and to buy up with it a quantity of ammunition, if he could get it, and so furnish us for new exploits ; and in the mean time I resolved to get a quantity of gold and some jewels, which I had on board the great ship, and place them so that I might carry them off without notice as soon as he came back ; and so, according to William's directions, I left him to go the voyage ; and I went on board the great ship, in which we had indeed an immense treasure.

We waited no less than two months for William's return ; and, indeed, I began to be very uneasy about him, sometimes thinking he had abandoned me, that he might have used the same artifice to have engaged the other men to join with him, and that they were all gone away together ; and it was but three days before his return, that I was just upon the point of resolving to go away to Madagascar, and give him over ; but the old surgeon, who mimicked the Quaker, and passed for the master of the sloop at Surat, persuaded me against that ; for which good advice, and his apparent faithfulness in what he had been trusted with, I made him a party to my design, and he proved very honest.

After two months absence, William came back, to our inexpressible joy, and brought a great many necessary things with him ; particularly, he brought sixty barrels of powder, some iron shot, and about thirty ton of lead ; also a great deal of provision ; and, in a word, gave me a publick account of his voyage in the hearing

of whoever happened to be upon the quarter-deck, that no suspicions might be found about us.

After all was done, William moved, that he might go up again, and that I would go with him; named several things which we had on board, that he could not sell there; and particularly told us, he had been obliged to leave several things there, the caravans not being come in; and that he had engaged to go back again with goods.

Upon these considerations I seemed persuaded to go; and all the company, seemed satisfied when I consented. Accordingly we took all the powder, lead, and iron, out of the sloop into the great ship, and all the other things that were for the ship's use, and put in some bales of spices, and casks or frails of cloves, in all about seven ton, and some other goods, among the bales of which I had conveyed all my private treasure, which, I assure you, was of no small value: and away I went.

Being thus resolved, we left the ship, which both William and I, and the surgeon, never intended to see any more. We steered directly for the gulph, and through to Bassora, or Balsara. The city of Balsara lies at some distance from the place where our sloop lay; and the river not being very safe, and we but ill acquainted with it, having but an ordinary pilot, we went on shore at a village where some merchants lived, and which was very populous, for the sake of small vessels riding there.

Here we staid, and traded three or four days, landing all our bales and spices, and indeed the whole cargo, that was of any considerable value; which we chose to do, rather than go up immediately to Balsara, till the project we had laid was put in execution.

After we had bought several things, and were preparing to buy several others, the boat being on shore with twelve men, myself, William, the surgeon, and one fourth man, whom we had singled out, we contrived to send a Turk, just at the dusk of the evening, with a letter to the boatswain; and giving the fellow a charge to run with all possible speed, we stood at a small distance to observe the event. The contents of the letter were thus written by the old doctor.

“Boatswain Thomas,

“WE are all betrayed: for God's sake make off with the boat, and get on board, or you are all lost. The Captain, William the Quaker, and George the Reformed, are seized and carried away. I have escaped and hid, but cannot stir out; if I do, I am a dead man. As soon as you are on board, cut or slip, and make tail for your lives.

“Adieu,

“R. S.”

We stood undiscovered, as above, it being the dusk of the evening, and saw the Turk deliver the letter; and in three minutes we saw all the men hurry into the boat, and put off; and no sooner



were they on board, than they took the hint, as we supposed; for the next morning they were out of sight, and we never heard tale or tidings of them since.

We were now in a good place, and in very good circumstances; for we passed for merchants of Persia.

We were perfectly secured at Bassora, by having frightened away the rogues our comrades; and we had nothing to do but to consider how to convert our treasure into things proper to make us look like merchants, as we were now to be, and not like freebooters, as we really had been.

We happened very opportunely to light on a Dutchman. As William spoke Dutch, and was of an insinuating behaviour, he soon got acquainted with the Dutchman; and discovering our circumstances to one another, we found he had considerable effects with him; that he had traded long in that country, and was making homeward to his own country; and that he had servants with him; one an American, whom he had taught to speak Dutch, and who had something of his own, but had a mind to travel into Europe; and the other a Dutch sailor, whom he had picked up by his fancy, and reposed a great trust in him; and a very honest fellow he was.

This Dutchman was very glad of an acquaintance, because he soon found that we directed our thoughts to Europe also; and as he found we were encumbered with goods only, for we let him know nothing of our money, he readily offered us his assistance to dispose of as many of them as the place we were in would put off, and his advice what to do with the rest.

I should have observed, that we had new clothed ourselves here after the Persian manner, in long vests of silk, a gown or robe of English crimson cloth, very fine and handsome, and had let our beards grow so after the Persian manner, that we passed for Persian merchants, in view only; though, by the way, we could not understand or speak one word of the language of Persia, or indeed of any other but English and Dutch; and of the latter I understand very little.

However, the Dutchman supplied all this for us; and as we had resolved to keep ourselves as retired as we could, though there were several English merchants in the place, yet we never acquainted ourselves with one of them, or exchanged a word with them; by which means we prevented their enquiry of us now, or their giving any intelligence of us, if any news of our landing here should happen to come, which, it was easy for us to know, was possible enough, if any of our comrades fell into bad hands, or by any accidents which we could not foresee.

Having, after almost three months stay at Bassora, disposed of some goods, but having a great quantity left, we hired boats according to the Dutchman's direction, and went up to Bagdat, or Babylon, on the river Tigris, or rather Euphrates. But understanding we should get a better price at Aleppo, or in the Levant, we prepared for the caravan.

After having disposed of our goods, William and I, and the other two, our faithful comrades, debated what we should do; and William and I resolved to separate from the other two, they resolving to go with the Dutchman into Holland, by the means of some Dutch ship which lay then in the road. William and I told them, we resolved to go and settle in the Morea, which then belonged to the Venetians. A Venetian ship touched at Cyprus, and put in at Scanderoon to look for freight home. We took the hint, and bargaining for our passage, and the freight of our goods, we embarked for Venice, where, in two and twenty days, we arrived safe with all our treasure. Here we converted all our effects into money, settled our abode as for a considerable time, and maintaining an inviolable friendship and fidelity to one another, lived like two brothers.

At length William told me, he had a sister in England, and if I was willing, he would write to know if she was living, and what condition she was in. I consented most willingly; and accordingly William wrote, and in about ten weeks time received an answer from her, directed to himself, under cover of a hard Armenian name that he had given himself.

William sent her a very kind letter, with a bill upon a merchant in London for a hundred and sixty pounds; and bid her comfort herself with the hope, that he should be able in a little time to send her more. About ten days after, he sent her another bill of five hundred and forty pounds; and a post or two after, another for three hundred pounds, making in all a thousand pounds; and told her he would send her sufficiency to leave off her shop, and directed her to take a house in a private situation. He waited then till he received an answer to all the three letters, with an account that she had received the money. It intimated as if she understood that he intended to come over to be incognito, assuring him he should be as retired as he pleased.

William sent his sister word, how kindly he took her prudent steps, and that she had guessed right; that he desired to be retired; and that he obliged her not to increase her figure, but live private till she saw him. In a word, after having settled our affairs at Venice, we agreed to go to Naples, where we laid out a large sum of money in bales of silk, left another in the hands of a respectable merchant, a third at Naples, and two bills of exchange for a great deal more; and yet came with such a cargo to London as is seldom brought on account of any two merchants. Some time after my arrival, I married my friend's sister, with whom I have been as happy as my heart could wish. And now having related to you the whole of my strange adventures, I shall here take my leave, lest some should enquire too minutely after your friend CAPTAIN BOB.

F I N I S.

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